

SITUATION REPORT NO. 18
INCIDENT NO. 96-37
DATE: May 21, 1996 **TIME: 3:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe storms characterized by extremely high winds and heavy precipitation, and continued flooding. (Incident #96-62 has been consolidated into Incident #96-37. We will continue to issue separate situation reports regarding Devils Lake, Incident #96-01.)
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: Damage reported in this situation report is additional to that included in last week's FEMA/State/Local Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA). Federal-state-local PDA teams identified nearly \$9 million in damages to public facilities in 29 counties in eastern and central North Dakota. Twelve teams assessed public impacts.

A severe storm on May 16 caused damage to power transmission facilities in Grant, Morton, and Sioux Counties. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Co-Op's initial damage assessment approached \$1 million. State and local emergency management officials are working with Mor-Gran-Sou to fully assess those losses.

On the evening of May 18, outages of 911 service resulted from severe storm activities for six and one-half hours in Barnes, Cass, Dickey, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Sargent and Stutsman Counties.

In Sargent County, totals of up to five inches of rainfall on May 13, 16, and 17 caused flooding, resulting in damages to two bridge abutments. In addition, 12 township and county roads are closed due to road inundation, and one culvert was washed out. The city of Cogswell closed its municipal water and sewer systems because of a flooded lift station. Currently, officials are opening municipal water and sewer lines for two hours in the early morning and two hours in the evening. City officials in Forman took actions on May 17 to reduce impacts of flooding of lift stations and sewers.

Dickey County officials reported that up to four inches of rainfall on May 13, 16, and 17 has resulted in further softening of roads. Fourteen roads became inundated and three culverts were washed out.

In Richland County, a possible tornado destroyed a barn and uprooted trees in the city of Hankinson during a storm on May 17. Three inches of rain fell in a 15-minute period, causing water to backup into basements in Hankinson. High winds uprooted approximately 20 large trees in Fairmount, and caused damage to homes. Areas of the county received up to four inches of rainfall, causing rivers and streams to rise above flood level. Six road sites and 14 bridges are closed due to inundation.

Grand Forks County received up to five inches of rainfall on May 17. Five families were forced to evacuate their homes. Officials reported that up to one foot of water flooded major city streets.

Walsh County officials reported 43 additional road sites are closed due to damage or inundation that occurred during the May 17 storm.

Drainage problems still persist within the city of Drayton because of spring flooding.

The Park River at Grafton crested on May 19 at 12.3 feet; flood stage is 8.5 feet.

The heavy rainfall in eastern North Dakota is causing a second crest of the Red River. The National Weather Service predicts the Red River to crest at 39 - 40 feet at Drayton on May 26; flood stage is 32 feet. At Pembina, the Red River is predicted to crest at 48.5 to 49.5 feet on May 28; flood stage is 42 feet.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) officials helped with the Preliminary Damage Assessment. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is assisting state and local emergency management officials in assessing rising lake impacts on rural sewer systems in Ramsey County.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: As a result of severe weather on May 17, city of Hankinson volunteers participated in a sandbagging operation to prevent rain water from running into basements.

The American Red Cross provided temporary shelter for five Grand Forks families, who were forced to evacuate their homes because of flooding.

Volunteers in Grant County assisted in debris cleanup.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On May 20, Governor Schafer requested President Clinton to issue a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration for flooding in 29 North Dakota counties. The counties are Barnes, Benson, Cass, Cavalier, Dickey, Eddy, Emmons, Foster, Grand Forks, Griggs, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McLean, Nelson, Oliver, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Richland, Sheridan, Steele, Stutsman, Traill, Walsh and Wells. Schafer requested implementation of the FEMA Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

The North Dakota National Guard assisted with debris removal from city streets in Carson, North Dakota, on May 18 and 19, 1996.

The McHenry and McLean County Commissions issued emergency declarations on May 7. The Oliver County Commission issued a disaster declaration on May 15. On May 20, the Morton County Commission issued a disaster declaration, and the Sargent County Commission issued an emergency declaration.

Pembina County Public Works, the city of Drayton and the city of St. Thomas fire departments are operating pumps to alleviate problems caused by plugged drains in Drayton. Township officers in Pembina County are taking temporary measures to repair roads.

During the week of May 12-18, the N.D. Department of Transportation opened three North Dakota- Minnesota bridges that had been closed since April 25. The bridges, located on N.D. Highways 5, 17 and 66, were among five bridges that were closed when the Red River of the North exceeded flood stage.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Approval of Governor Schafer's requests to President Clinton for a Major Presidential

Disaster Declaration for 29 North Dakota Counties.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The National Weather Service has reported the level of Devils Lake at 1,437.05 feet M.S.L. on May 20. An immediate rise of three inches was the direct result of a two and one-half inch rainfall over the basin during the weekend of May 17-19, 1996.

Signed _____
Douglas C. Friez
State Director